

Character Education

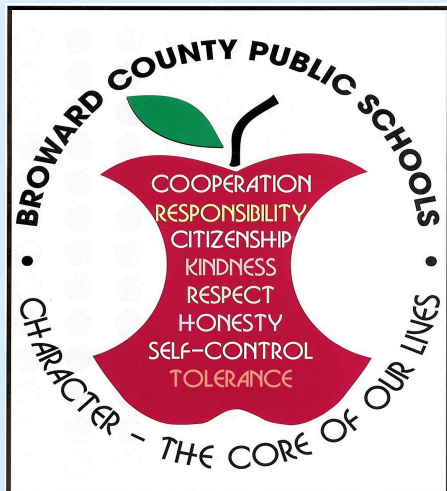
*Suggested Activities
Middle*



April

Tolerance

Prevention Calendar April 2017



Inside this issue you will find:

- Alignment to Prevention Calendar.
- A variety of lessons and activities for all grade levels.
- Links to multiple additional resources and helpful websites.
- Social Emotional and Learning alignment.

Monthly Observances:

- [National Child Abuse Prevention](#)
- [National STD Awareness](#)
- [Prevention of Animal Cruelty](#)
- [Stress Awareness](#)
- [Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention](#)
- [Genocide Awareness](#)

Weekly Observances:

- [National Public Health Week](#), April 3rd – 9th
- [National Youth Violence Prevention Week](#), April 3rd – 7th

Day Observances:

- April 5 – [National D.A.R.E. Day](#)
- April 7 – [World Health Day](#)
- April 21 – [National Day of Silence](#)
- April 22 – [Earth Day](#)
- April 24 – [National Healthy Schools Day](#)



DEFINITIONS & QUOTATIONS

DEFINITIONS

Ideas on How to Use:

- Post character trait & definition around the school campus.
- Teachers use definitions to help students understand the meaning of the character development trait.

“Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.” – Unesco Declaration of Principles on Tolerance

Definitions:

- Recognizing and respecting differences, values and beliefs of other people.
- The act of tolerating something
- A disposition to allow freedom of choice and behavior
- Willingness to accept feelings, habits, or belief that are different from your own
- Sympathy for or acceptance of feelings, habits, or beliefs that are different from one’s own
- A fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those whose opinions, beliefs, practices, racial or ethnic origins, etc., differ from one’s own; freedom from bigotry.
- A fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward opinions, beliefs, and practices that differ from one’s own.
- Interest in and concern for ideas, opinions, practices, etc., foreign to one’s own; a liberal, undogmatic viewpoint

QUOTATIONS

Ideas on How to Use:

- Display a quote each week. Share on morning announcements.
- Teachers post quotes in classrooms.
- Have students write about what the quote means to them.
- Have primary students draw a picture to go with the quote.
- Encourage students to create their own ‘quote’ that promotes monthly trait.

“Hatred is a feeling which leads to the extinction of values.”
– Jose Ortega y Gasset

“It is not attention that the child is seeking but love.”
– Sigmund Freud

“No one can put a chin about the ankle of another person without at last finding the other end fastened about his or own neck.”
– Frederick Douglass

“To understand another human being you must gain some insight into the conditions which made him what he is.”
– Margaret Bourke-White

“If there is right in the soul, there will be beauty in the person; If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the home; If there is harmony in the home, there will be peace in the world.”
– Chinese Proverb

“I have a dream... that my four little children will live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skins, but by the character of their actions.”
– Martin Luther King



Book List

Ideas on How to Use:

- In media center, designate a character trait “Featured Readings” section where books promoting the month’s theme are displayed and available for checkout.
- Have students read books, and then depict how the book exemplified the character trait.

Aleutian Sparrow by Karen Hesse

During World War II, when Alaskan Aleuts were moved to internment camps, Vera, a half-Aleut teen, experienced racism in an alien environment.

Fame and Glory in Freedom by Barbara O’Connor

Bird, not very popular, works hard to befriend Harlem, a new boy in her class who is shunned by their peers.

Trouble Don’t Last By Shelley Pearsall

The Underground Railroad was the escape route for slaves trying to gain freedom. Read about the hardship the runaways endured in this thrilling story.

Breaking Through by Francisco Jimenez

Fourteen-year-old Francisco and his family were Mexican immigrants who had been living in California for ten years when they were sent back to Mexico by the immigration authorities. They returned soon after. The author examines the poverty, struggles, bigotry, and intolerance he experiences during his teenage years.

Reach for the Moon by Samantha Abeel

This inspirational collection of poems and essays was written by a thirteen-year-old, learning disabled girl whose caring English teacher discovered that despite her weaknesses, she had a remarkable talent for writing. Samantha emerged as a successful person rather than as a failure because an educator looked beyond the “apparent” to discover her special ability.

The Gold Cadillac by Mildred Taylor

Two black girls living in the North are proud of their family’s beautiful new Cadillac until they take it on a visit to the South and encounter racial prejudice for the first time.

Iggie’s House by Judy Blume

When a black family with three children moves into the white neighborhood, eleven-year-old Winnie learns the difference between being a good neighbor and being a good friend.

Activities

- Read the African folktale *Why Frog and Snake Never Play Together* to the class. It is a tale about two children who are told they cannot play together. Discuss with the students the moral of the story. As a journal entry, have the students write what they would do if a similar incident happened to them.
- Read Aesop’s *The Goatherd and the Goats* to the class. Discuss the application of the story: They who neglect old friends for the sake of new ones are rightly served when they lose both. Ask the students to share similar situation where this could have happened to them.
- Choose a selection from *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* or something similar that refers to issues of tolerance. Ask students to respond to the passage.
- For U.S. History students, read excerpts of the Civil War novel, *Shades of Gray*. The main character’s father was killed during the war. Discuss how the character learns tolerance through the example of his Uncle Joe.



Prevention Ideas

Monthly Observances:

National Child Abuse Prevention

Order your FREE [Safer, Smarter Teens Personal Power](#) Curriculum
Use Code: FLFREE

National STD Awareness

[STD/HIV Handshake](#)

Prevention of Animal Cruelty

[Animal Cruelty](#) (Grades 6-7)

[Dogs](#) (Grades 6-8)

[Conflict Resolution](#)

[Making Kind Choices: Animal Testing](#)

Stress Awareness

[Mental Health Lesson Plans](#)

[Stress Reduction Activities for Students](#)

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention

[Diversity, Prevention & Intervention](#)

[Sexual Harassment Awareness Lesson Plan](#) (Grade 6)

Genocide Awareness

[Confronting Cyberhate](#)

[Responding to Hate and Violence](#)

[Children of the Holocaust](#)

Weekly Observances:

National Public Health Week (April 3rd – 9th)

[National Public Health Week Toolkit 2017](#)

[CDC – National Public Health Week Ideas](#)

National Youth Violence Prevention Week (April 3rd – 7th)

[National Youth Violence Prevention Week Activities & Challenges](#)
[Stand Up, Speak Out and Take Action](#)



School-wide

Ideas on how to use:

- Use suggested school-wide ideas to create a culture of character and address your schools need for a RTI Tier I – universal strategy.
- Any teacher or staff members that work with students can incorporate classroom ideas.

1 PA Announcements

- Acknowledge difference among students and celebrate the uniqueness of every one. Highlight a different ethnic, cultural, religious, or racial group each week.
- Encouraging words to be kind to one another, give examples every day all week about how to be a good friend.

2 School Displays

- Tolerance Picture
Tolerance can mean showing patience. Have students create a picture of how they feel when someone is patient.
 - Families
Have students make a collage of faces depicting individuals of all ethnic backgrounds. If possible use pictures of the children in your class or pictures of them and their families.
 - Mural
Create a class mural or graph depicting the diversity of the class and/or the community.

(Continued)

Day Observances:

World Health Day (April 7)

[Health and Global Inequalities](#) (Grade 8)

[Upping the Odds on Standardized Tests](#) (Grades 6 – 8)

National Day of Silence (April 21)

[Day of Silence](#) (DPI)

Earth Day (April 22)

[Project Learning Tree](#) (Reading List)

[Earth Day Curriculum Resources](#) (NEA List)

[Nature Works Everywhere](#)

[Science NetLinks Lessons](#)

[National Geographic – Introduction to Earth Day](#)



School-wide [cont'd]

3 Special Events & Programs

- **Peer Presentations**

Have older students present to younger students': examples in their life where tolerance has assisted them in being successful.

- **Classroom Presentations**

Arrange for high school athletes to present to students why teamwork is important and how tolerance equates winning.

- **Role Play Presentations**

Have students create skits that will be presented and depict tolerance. Have older students write the role-plays.

4 Class Activities

- Have each student interview parents, relatives, friends, neighbors, etc. asking what tolerance means to them. Then, have students write a paper about what tolerance means to a number of different people using examples from the people interviewed.
- Have students discuss or write about how they think a person might feel when treated negatively because of the way he/she looks, speaks, dresses or acts.
- Have groups research and compare different countries' lack of tolerance for wild and exotic animals and how that lack of tolerance is leading to the extinction of many species. Discuss what each individual can do in his own life to help save these animals.

DAY of SILENCE®



SUBJECT AREA LESSON PLANS

Ideas on How to Use This Page: Integrate character trait lesson plans into all subject area instruction. Lesson plans are specific to language arts, social studies, math/science, arts, health & physical education

LANGUAGE ARTS

- **School or Community Unity**

Have students write essays, which suggest ways, their school or community could be more tolerant.

- **Resolving Conflicts**

Have students write stories where characters have disagreements with each other yet they cooperate to resolve their conflicts.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- **Tolerance and Exploitation**

Discuss how the principle of tolerance is essential in all human societies. Discuss how tolerance can often be replaced by exploitation.

- **Current Events**

Have students' research and share about current events where issues of tolerance are being discussed and resolved cooperatively.

MATH

- **Solving Difficult Math Problems**

Have students work together in small groups to solve a difficult math problem. Have students assign people different responsibilities as they work together to solve the problem. After the groups solve the problem, discuss how well students accepted each other's work. Have students explain how the principles of tolerance allowed them to problem solve.

ARTS

- **VISUAL ARTS: Tolerance**

Have students create a mural depicting the diversity of the class and/or community.

- **VISUAL ARTS: Portraits**

Have students photograph people of all ethnic backgrounds. Have students create a collage of all the faces, showing the diversity in your school and/or community.

Lesson Plans [cont'd]

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- **Resolving Conflicts**

In small groups have students discuss conflicts they have resolved while playing a sport or game. Emphasize tolerance strategies used.

- **Creating a Tolerant Community**

Have students discuss in groups what makes a tolerant community. Then have students discuss what each individual needs to do to build a positive community.

What Makes a Tolerant Community?	What Do People Need to Do?



Activities

- As a class, work on an interdisciplinary social justice project. Have the class pick a topic of intolerance or injustice; e.g., The Holocaust, the liberation of Iraq, segregation, etc. Assign groups to research and write a report. One group can research the geographical aspects, another group can research the literary writings on the topic, another can research statistics, etc. Each group must present their findings to the class. Their presentation can be a combination of report, visuals, drama, etc.
- Have students write a poem about what tolerance means to them.
- Have students create a diversity survey for their class. Distribute the survey and have the class analyze and discuss the results.

LEAPS

[Leaps Lesson on Tolerance](#)



Classroom Ideas

Class Discussion Topics

- With the class, define prejudice. Discuss where it comes from. What can individuals do to prevent prejudice? Have partners brainstorm Prejudice Dos and Don'ts. The teacher can use outlined fire hats and write student generated tips on them to combat the fires of prejudice. The class can create a bulletin board, "How to Stomp out the Fires of Prejudice."

Creative Expression

- Although tolerance is a trait we want to see each day, create a "Totally Tolerant Day." Have the students create posters and slogans to promote tolerance. Use the school video or television system to share this concept with others on campus.
- Ask students to develop a song that promotes tolerance. Use a variety of items and tools to create sounds and rhythm. Explain that each sound and instrument is unique and different but that each contributes to the joy of the song.

Service Learning

Ideas on How to Use this Section:

- Promote school-wide service learning initiative/campaigns using provided ideas. (Do a 'service day'; encourage classes to do random service acts of kindness to other classes/staff, etc.)
- Engage school clubs/student council to lead service projects.

School Service-Learning

• Welcome Buddy System

Have students create a welcome buddy system in the class and design a welcome bag for new students. These bags may include items and information that would make a new student feel welcome. As new students enter, introduce the new student to his or her buddy group and present them with a welcome bag.

• PenPal

Have students write to Kids Meeting Kids, an international organization that promotes multicultural understanding, peace, fairness, and children's rights. Find out about their penpal and peace exchange programs. <http://kidsmeetingkids.org/>

• Unity Chain

Have the class create a school wide "Unity Chain." Have the student's design a link for a chain on which they write a statement of what they think makes them unique. Display the chain in the cafeteria or some other common area.

Hands-on Activities/Projects

Editorial Cartoon

Introduction

An **editorial cartoon** uses pictures and text to make a statement about something. Editorial cartoons are a way to express opinions about a wide range of topics, such as politics or culture. Cartoonists often use images of well-known people, places and things to send a message. Editorial cartoons can be challenging because you often need background knowledge to understand them.

When you are trying to interpret any editorial cartoon, just remember to: look at the picture; then, look at the BIGGER picture!

1. Look at the picture. First, take a look at the images and text in the cartoon, and describe what you see. Is there anything that looks familiar?
2. Look at the BIGGER picture.

Next, think about what has happened in the past and what is happening in the present. What is the artist of the cartoon trying to tell you?

For the complete lesson plan: <http://www.tolerance.org/activity/editorial-cartoons-introduction>

Family Newsletter

Dear Parent:

Tolerance is the character trait of the month of April. This newsletter offers you activities and ideas, which will assist you with helping your child to understand the importance of tolerance. Talking together about tolerance and respect helps kids learn more about the values you want them to have. Giving them opportunities to play and work with others is important as well. This lets kids learn first hand that everyone has something to contribute and to experience differences and similarities.

Ideas to Do as a Family

Things parents can do to help kids learn tolerance include:

- Notice your own attitudes. Parents who want to help their kids value diversity can be sensitive to cultural stereotypes they may have learned and make an effort to correct them. Demonstrate an attitude of respect for others.
- Remember that kids are always listening. Be aware of the way you talk about people who are different from yourself. Do not make jokes that perpetuate stereotypes. Although some of these might seem like harmless fun, they can undo attitudes of tolerance and respect.
- Select books, toys, music, art, and videos carefully. Keep in mind the powerful effect the media and pop culture have on shaping attitudes.
- Point out and talk about unfair stereotypes that may be portrayed in the media.
- Answer kids' questions about differences honestly and respectfully. This teaches that it is acceptable to notice and discuss differences as long as it is done with respect.



Character Education: Middle

April



Diversity, Prevention & Intervention
Lauderdale Manors Early Learning &
Resource Center
1400 NW 14th Court
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
(754) 321-1655
Fax: (754) 321-1691
www.browardprevention.org
Email:
Kimberly.Young@browardschools.com

Character Check

- Remember that tolerance does not mean tolerating unacceptable behavior. It means that everyone deserves to be treated with respect – and should treat others with respect as well.
- Help your children feel good about themselves. Kids who feel badly about themselves often treat others badly. Kids with strong self-esteem value and respect themselves and are more likely to treat others with respect, too. Help your child to feel accepted, respected, and valued.
- Learn together about holiday and religious celebrations that are not part of your own tradition.
- Honor your family's traditions and teach them to your kids – and to someone outside the family who wants to learn about the diversity *you* have to offer.